



OPINION

Reading, Writing And Agriculture?

Could it be that Americans live too comfortably to be in touch with reality?

Not that anyone should give up or stop pursuing a better life for themselves, but it's obvious that when the hard labor shrank out of most lives, the ignorance of basic life functions grew into them.

This observation has arisen out of a quest to understand the animal rights activism and growing American ignorance of gathering food, water, clothing and shelter. The most logical answer is that too many people own a silver spoon (or plastic) instead of a spade.

The progress that came from the American desire to be creative, make more money, expand horizons and so forth, resulted in most Americans leaving the farm several generations ago.

For the most part, present generations can not go back to the farm, if they wanted to.

Maybe that's the way it should be. Progress can't be stopped and for the most part, the progress has been good.

However, the United States sorely needs to stop dead, do an about-face on its march toward progress, and take a hard and thoughtful look at what it has dropped along the pathway.

What it will see, strewn along the road to a better world, are packages of various necessities lying on the ground - they were tossed off in the rush to get ahead quickly.

These are things such as understanding basics of living, morals, ethics . . .

Every explorer must have his essentials, and they get carried along the way, even if the pace is slower than it could be.

What we've done is to drop a few essentials in order to lessen the load.

Thus, without these essentials, it seems we have created a variety of factions within society that are made up of people without the knowledge of fundamental rules of survival — it is these factions, such as the animal rights activists, which are causing problems now for all of us.

The situation can be corrected. The answer lies within the schools and ultimately within ourselves.

We suggest that a good start is in early education.

School districts should offer, in addition to vocational agriculture and other elective agricultural courses offered in later grades, mandatory basic agriculture for every student.

The morals and ethics can come from home, church, and society, but schools now need to include a fundamental education of living that used to be taken for granted.

The educational system, instead of using so many computers and televisions as teaching aides in early grades, should reappropriate some funds for the sole purpose of getting a sound foundation of knowledge of food culture, water cycles and other aspects of day-to-day life.

Schools and teachers often get blamed for many social problems, but in this case the finger pointing is not merely to redirect responsibility. We need the schools.

Human Survival 101 should start in elementary school, before sex education, and include actual, hands-on plant and animal culture as part of the curriculum.

When we left the farm, we left a lot of knowledge that is still taken for granted. It can't be that way any more.

Mandatory agriculture classes in all schools needs to be done.



NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin
Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To Complete the U.S.D.A. Annual Farm Survey

Nearly 3,000 Pennsylvania farmers will be asked to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Annual June Survey. Totally 117,000 of the nation's over 2 million farmers will be asked to answer the survey. The information gathered in the survey will be used to make state, regional and national estimates of crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventories, the number of farms and the amount of land being farmed. Farmers selected for participation in the program will be getting survey forms between June 1 and June 15.

The survey is important in making accurate crop and livestock estimates so I would encourage you to complete it to the best of your ability. These estimates are the basis for the development of marketing programs by the U.S.D.A. In addition, the information is used by state and federal government in developing rules and guidelines. The June survey is considered the most important survey of the year by the Department of Agriculture.

Facts about individual farms are strictly confidential and used only in combination with reports from other farms to produce agricultural statistics for the state and nation. If farmers have questions about the survey they can contact the Department of Agriculture at (717) 787-3904.

To Keep Pesticide Records

Today's battle with insects, fungus, rodents and weeds requires the use of many different chemicals. It is important to keep

- Washington County Fairgrounds, thru June 15.
- Wednesday, June 13
- Cumberland Cooperative Sheep and Wool Growers Wool Pool, Carlisle Fairgrounds.
- Lancaster Co. Plant Disease Clinic, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Eastern Junior Simmental Expo, Washington County Fairgrounds, thru June 15.

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an accurate record of any chemical used. This would include the date, name of material, application rate, field number and even the direction the wind is blowing. This might save a lot of trouble and loss of income in case there is some question.

Many food items are being checked by Food and Drug representatives for pesticide residues. It is possible to find residues even where the producer followed regulations and every recommended practice. Your records would be very important in these cases. In any event, always follow label instructions.

To Manage Ventilation Systems

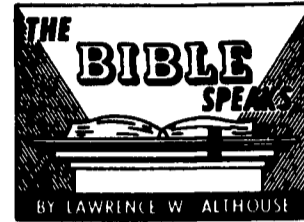
Fresh air is the most essential and least expensive item we use in producing poultry and eggs.

A great deal of air, in fact about three billion cubic feet of air may be moved through a poultry house in a year. So, we see where

a single fan must be clean, lubricated, and well-powered so that it can move 10,000 tons or more of air each year. I'd suggest using a checklist to examine the condition of fans in poultry houses. The checklist should include these items:

- Remove all dust, dirt and feathers from blades, louvers, belts, pulleys and motors once each month.
- Lubricate all bearings that may cause friction.
- Replace bearings, motors, pulley's belts, pulleys and motors once each month.
- Allow the right amount of inlet space so as not to choke off air flow.

About 12 square inches of inlet is needed for each 50 cfm of fan capacity. The amount of inlet space should always be adjustable so that it can be open in hot weather and nearly closed in cold weather.



IT'S NOT FAIR!
June 10, 1990

Background Scripture: Psalms 37.

Devotional Reading: Luke 18:9-14.

Some months ago, as I was waiting to tape a program at a Dallas television station, I met a man who was to appear on the same telecast in another slot. We had quite a while to wait, so we talked together at length. I found that he was to be interviewed because of his experiences during World War II in the Auschwitz extermination camp. A Polish Jew, he was taken to the camp as a young boy and saw both his father and mother murdered, along with tens of thousands of others. He himself had to endure great suffering, humiliation and privation. After the war he came to the U.S., penniless and without any promise of help from anyone. Today he is one of Dallas' most prominent businessmen.

His is a dramatic success story. But his greatest success, I found, was not his survival of Auschwitz nor his financial enterprise, but an inner victory that is even more spectacular. For that which impressed me most about him was his complete freedom from bitterness. Life had dealt him more misery than most of us can even imagine and he has not one resentful or bitter bone in his body. Life had been unfair to him, but he has not let it defeat him.

WHY BE SURPRISED?

Somehow, this man learned quite early what has escaped so many of us: life is not fair. That comes as a shock to most people -- in fact, some people never seem able to grasp it -- for they assume that it is written somewhere that it

must be. This includes most Christians I have known. But that is ironic, for the Bible itself is one long testimony to the unfairness of life. What could be more unfair than Christ's crucifixion?

In the Dallas Morning News the other day was the story of a man who had spent 20 years in jail, only to be released when another finally admitted his guilt. Worst of all, it was learned that people who would have testified to the first man's innocence had been ignored by the police and the prosecutor. A few days ago saw the untimely death of Ryan White, the Indiana teen-ager who, through no fault of his own, contracted the deadly AIDS disease. How can we continue to be surprised that life is not fair?

FRET NOT!

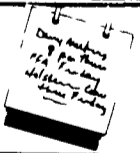
Although probably not on that level of magnitude, who among us has not experienced the unfairness of life? We lose a loved one who fails to reach the prime of life. The doctor tells us we have a disease that is incurable. Someone else receives the promotion we should have had. Our well-off next door neighbor wins the lottery. The blatantly immoral political candidate wins the election. Why? Because God never promised us that life would be fair.

In the face of all this, the Psalmist counsels "Fret not!" Why? Because, as the man I met in the television station knows, the more important question is not, "Is it fair?", but "What can I make of it?" This man would certainly be justified in hating for the rest of his life. But as he told me, "Hate destroys the hater." Terrible as were the things that heppened to him, he knew that even worse would be a life consumed with bitterness. That's why the Psalmist says, "Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil" (37:8).

Life is not fair, but in the total perspective of time God is just. And it is that by which we hope and live.

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Farm Calendar



Saturday, June 9

Delmarva Chicken Festival and Cooking Contest, Easton, Md.
Northeast Ohio Dairy Goat Association Annual Show, Randolph Fairgrounds, Randolph, Ohio, thru June 10.

Sunday, June 10

Northeast Ohio Dairy Goat Association Annual Show, Randolph Fairgrounds, Randolph, Ohio.

Tuesday, June 12

Eastern Junior Simmental Expo,

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